


IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 17 and 26.

Please amend the claims as follows:

 Claim 1 (Currently amended) A transgenic plant comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding laccase, operably linked to a promoter to effect which controls expression of the laccase in the plant, wherein the laccase is produced at levels of about 0.01% or higher of the total soluble protein of the plant.

Claim 2 The method of claim 1 wherein the laccase is produced at levels of about 0.1% or higher.

Claim 3 The method of claim 1 wherein the laccase is produced at levels of about 1% or higher.

Claim 4 The plant of claim 1 wherein the laccase is produced at levels of about 10% or higher.

Claim 5 The plant of claim 1 wherein the plant is corn.


Claim 6 The plant of claim 1 wherein the expression of laccase is preferentially directed to the seed of the plant.

Claim 7 (Currently amended) The plant of claim 1 ~~further comprising a fungal laccase-producing nucleotide sequence~~ wherein the nucleotide sequence is a fungal nucleotide sequence.

Claims 8 (Currently amended) The plant of claim 1 wherein the plant is maize ~~and further comprising the~~ wherein the nucleotide sequence is a *Trametes versicolor* laccase-producing nucleotide sequence.

Claim 9 (Currently amended) The plant of claim 1 wherein the nucleotide sequence ~~producing encoding~~ -laccase is a sequence having at least 68% to 100% identity with SEQ ID NO.1.

Claim 10 The plant of claim 9 wherein the sequence has at least 80% to 100% identity with SEQ ID NO. 1.

 Claim 11 (Currently amended) The plant of claim 1 wherein the nucleotide sequence producing laccase is a sequence which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO. 1 under highly stringent conditions.

Claim 12 (Currently amended) The plant of claim 1 wherein the promoter is ~~the~~ a globulin promoter.

Claim 13 Seed of the plant of claim 1.

Claim 14 Plant cells of the plant of claim 1

Claim 15 (Currently amended) A method of producing laccase in plants ⁱⁿ commercial quantities ^{comprising} introducing a construct into the plant comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding laccase operably linked to a promoter which directs expression in the plant such that the laccase is produced at levels of about 0.01% or higher soluble protein.

^{Ex. 1} Claim 16 (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ ¹⁸ wherein the construct ^{further} comprises a signal sequence directing expression of the laccase to the plant cell wall.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 The method of claim 15 wherein laccase is preferentially directed to the seed of the plant.

^B Claim 19 (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 15 wherein the promoter is the~~ a globulin promoter.

^{cont} Claim 20 (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 ~~further comprising a construct comprising introducing~~ wherein the nucleotide sequence is a fungal laccase-producing nucleotide sequence.

Claims 21 (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the plant is maize ~~and further comprising a construct comprising the~~ wherein the nucleotide sequence is a *Trametes versicolor* laccase-producing nucleotide sequence.

Claim 22 (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising introducing a construct comprising a nucleotide sequence having at least 68% to 100% identity with SEQ ID NO.1 into the plant.

Claim 23 The method of claim 15 wherein the sequence has at least 80% to 100% identity with SEQ ID NO. 1.

^{Ex. 1} Claim 24 (Currently amended) The method of claim ¹⁵ ~~further comprising introducing a construct comprising~~ ^{the nucleotide} a laccase-producing sequence ~~which~~ hybridizes to SEQ ID NO. 1 under highly stringent conditions.

Claim 25 (Currently amended) A method of producing laccase ⁱⁿ commercial quantities ^{comprising} ~~providing~~ producing a biomass from a plurality of plants, of which at least

certain plants contain a nucleotide molecule ~~comprised of~~ comprising a heterologous nucleotide sequence encoding for the laccase, wherein the nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a promoter to ~~effect control~~ expression of the laccase by the certain plants at levels of about 0.01% or higher total soluble protein, such that a biomass is produced and extracting the laccase from the plants biomass.

Claim 26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (New) The plant of claim 1 wherein the plant is a monocotyledonous plant.

Claim 28 (New) The seed of claim 13 wherein the seed plant is a monocotyledonous plant seed.

Claim 29 (New) The plant cells of claim 14 wherein the plant cells are cells of a monocotyledonous plant.

Claim 30 (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the plants are monocotyledonous plants.

Claim 31 (New) The plant of claim 6 wherein the expression of laccase is preferentially directed to the cell wall of the plant.
